



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

January 2018 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held on January 19, 2017, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. We'll have the annual Bingo tournament, held over from December, the inauguration of 2018 club officers, and hopefully time for some exhibits as well.

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: James Kubley
Sgt. at Arms: Dave Herrewig
Trustee '17-'19: Dave Hunsicker
Librarian: Justin Perrault

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: John Bleidorn
Trustee '16-'18: Gary Bieringer
Trustee '18-'20: Tom Dallmann
Newsletter editor: Leon Saryan

Mailing address: c/o PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224-9028

Newsletter material: c/o PO Box 210313, Milwaukee, WI 53221-8006 LASaryanphd@gmail.com

Web Site Address: www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). The annual MNS coin show is held in October.

January Coin of the Month: This is a 1966 mint set from Philadelphia containing 5 coins, including a silver half dollar. The set is housed in a nice Whitman brand plastic case and all coins are brilliant uncirculated. Add this attractive set to your collection for a starting bid of just \$5.



January 2018 MNS President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope that you survived the holiday festivities and are ready to get down to business in 2018. With the way 2017 wrapped up, it is anyone's guess what we have to look forward to in the coming year. Bitcoins were at an all-time high, which is highly suspect given their ephemeral nature. Much like the tulip craze of years ago, this fad is most likely to wear itself out before leading to something new.

I was delighted to see so many people at our Christmas holiday party meeting, in spite of the bitter cold. There was an excellent spread of refreshments and ten pizzas were nearly devoured throughout the span of our meeting. The members brought so many great items for show-and-tell that we did not even have time for our annual BINGO game. As a result, we will play for prizes at our January meeting.

The newly elected officers will be sworn in at the January meeting. We have a significant amount of turn over this year, with a new secretary and treasurer both coming into the fold. I think it is great to have this new level of leadership in our club to keep it moving forward. Lee served faithfully as our club's treasurer for many years, a couple of decades actually; we owe him a debt of gratitude for his time and commitment to the club. Thank you very much!

February 1st is the application deadline for any members that would like to apply for a scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar (aka "coin camp") in Colorado Springs. Please reference our club website for further details and application instructions. Also, with the start of another year, that means it is time to revisit our fantasy numismatic picks from the previous year and pick new ones for the year ahead. At one of the next meetings we will tabulate the gains and losses endured by the entrants.

Please remember that the club needs to receive your dues payment in order to remain a member in good standing for the coming year. Please pay membership secretary Leon A. as soon as possible at a future meeting.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

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Editorial *Fantasy Numismatics*

Elsewhere in this issue we have the results of the 2017 Fantasy Numismatics competition. There were eleven entries and all participants receive an award. The first three winners receive awards as well. The form for 2018 is also included. My thanks to life member Bruce Benoit who organized the competition and scored the entries he has done for the past several years.

MN\$ 2018

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 18:	Officer Inductions; Post-Holiday BINGO game
Feb 15:	U.S. Coins Trivia Program hosted by Neil Shafer
March 15:	Open
April 19:	Peter Jacobson-Anesthetic History
May 17:	Spring Auction
June 21:	Expanded Show and Tell
July 19:	NO MEETING
Aug 16:	Slabbed vs. Raw Coins presentation by Tom Casper
Sept 20:	Open
Oct 18:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 15:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 20:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2018 Numismatic Events

Feb. 18, 2018	Oshkosh Show, Conv. Center 2 N. Main Street
February 25	Racine Coin Show Roma Lodge, 7130 Spring St. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
March 25	Waukesha CC, New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W. Cleveland Ave.
April 13-14	SSCC Annual Show Crowne Plaza Airport 6401 S. 13 th St. Noon-6PM; 10 AM-4 PM
April 14	MNS Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic at SSCC Show, 7 AM-Noon
April 15	Sheboygan CC Show, Kohler, WI
April 22	Elgin, IL Coin Club Show Holiday Inn at 495 Airport Rd. 8 AM-4 PM (free admission)
April 25-28	Central States Annual Convention Schaumburg, IL

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Don Kaminski
Feb:	Open
Mar:	Open
Apr:	Open
May:	Open
Jun:	Open
Jul:	NO MEETING
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Party

Annual Dues

Dues for 2018 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

December 21, 2017

President Justin Perrault called the 985th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:00 pm. There were 33 members & 5 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. There were no door prizes. The program for the evening was the annual Christmas/Holiday party, with pizza from Balestreri's provided by the club.

Coin of the Month: Tom P won the coin of the month, a 2 inch bronze 1st Lunar Landing medal with a bid of \$21.00.

Show & Tell: We had an extensive and varied show and tell session. Bob M-Mega Red Book, Elongated Medal, Colorado adventure, Tom C-Brewery wooden nickel history & Chinooks Medal, Bruce B-Solar eclipse adventure & numismatic items, 2 scientist medals, Jeff G-Two old German medals found in his closet, Neil S-Milwaukee transportation tickets & related stock certificate, Peter J-Red Baron medal & portrait, John B-Brass MNS life member card sample & swimming school postcard, Chris K-Carnegie medal, Tom S-Sinnipee bank note, Bob G-Rock Island Work Pass Medal.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Hartz reported that November showed no receipts and \$199.36 in disbursements for a negative cash flow of \$199.36.

Correspondence: Numismatist magazine, Centinel, ANA & Central States donation request letter, CSNS ballot.

Vice President Report: There are openings for several months in the upcoming year for members to present programs & bring refreshments.

Membership: Membership cards are available for 2018 for annual members upon payment of their annual dues.

Election: Unanimous motion for accepting the election slate as follows: President-Justin Perrault, VP-Jim Heinrich, Secretary-James Kubley, Treasurer-John Bleidorn, Sgt. at Arms-Dave Herrewig along with a trustee position to Tom Dallmann.

Newsletter: Short articles are always welcome.

Fantasy Numismatics: Leon S reported that he needs to procure two copies of the 2018 January COINS magazine, after which the scores will be tallied. Don Kaminski loaned his personal copy, one more is needed.

Bingo: The bingo tournament was postponed until January due to lack of time.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 8:54 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by John Bleidorn

An Armenian Gem

L. A. Saryan



For those who might wonder about the value of Armenian numismatic collectibles, consider the results of the March 14, 2017, auction held by the venerable German firm of Fritz Kunker. Lot 2010 of Kunker auction 289 is a solid gold medal struck in Russia to commemorate the capture of the city of Yerevan, today the capital of the Republic of Armenia, from Persia by the armies of the Russian Czar.

Both sides of the medal depict Mt. Ararat, the obverse showing it rising above the Biblical deluge surmounted by the Ark of Noah, and the opposite face showing the mountain with a flag at its peak, the date 1828, the river Araxes, and in the foreground the skyline of the city of Yerevan as it existed under Persian rule. The absence of a legend does not in the least diminish the appeal of this medal; rather, it compels the numismatist to research and appreciate its historical significance.

The medal is 172.39 grams, 64.57 mm diameter and catalogued as Diakov 476.1. Described as being of the most extreme rarity, the original estimate was 50,000 Euro with a starting bid of 40,000 Euro. After obviously vigorous bidding, this gem was hammered down for an astounding 110,000 Euro (\$118,100 US). This example was from the collection of Georg Mikhailovich, who obtained it at an Adolph Hess auction in Lucerne in 1939. I'd be surprised if another gold example of this quality remains in private hands.

This is one of the most attractive and historically significant medals issued by Russia in the nineteenth century. For the first time in several centuries, an important part of the Armenian homeland came under Christian control; this later became a key factor in the reestablishment of Armenian statehood. The Persians were forced south across the Araxes River, and soon thereafter Czarist armies pushed into Ottoman territory to the west, capturing several important cities with large Armenian populations from the Turks.

A handful of bronze examples of this medal are known, and collectors of Armenian medals consider themselves fortunate if they can locate an example. Silver examples were also made but I have never seen one. The existence of a pristine gold example in a private collection is an exciting revelation for numismatists interested in Armenian medals and the history of Armenia's association with Russia in the nineteenth century.



Milwaukee Numismatic Society's

Fantasy Numismatics 2017

By: Bruce Benoit

Year End Results

This year we had eleven (11) participants.

In general the participants as a team did exceptionally well!

Eight (8) ended up with positive portfolios, and

Only two (2) had negative results. While only one participant broke even, a very different result from past years. This year we have a back-to-back winner.

This was a very different year as many key date collector coins increased in value; along with many Silver Dollars, both Trade and Morgan type. These categories are commonly selected every year with mixed results. Another surprise to me was the overall increase with early copper cents and half cents. Last year I had all of my eggs in that basket and lost big on every coin selected. This was another year of extremes both ways, positive and negative. We had some record losses and a record increase on one selected coin that went from \$3,000.00 in 2017 to a whopping \$5,000.00 in 2018! A \$2,000.00 increase, chosen by our Fantasy Winner this year. The coin was an 1809 Capped Bust Dollar with a reeded edge. Below is an Obverse example of that coin type. The multiplying factor was that the winner selected three (3) of these coins in his portfolio, so it was a \$6,000.00 gain! We also had one coin that dropped \$5,000.00 – wow, and that was a 1908-S Twenty Dollar gold in MS60! I'm glad I don't have that coin in my safety deposit box!



U.S. Silver Half Dollar, 1809, reeded edge

This year's top fantasy coin that had the greatest increase in value in the grade MS60 U.S. Silver Half Dollar, 1809 Capped Bust Type with reeded edge

2017 Value = \$3,000.00

2018 Value = \$5,000.00

X 3 = \$6,000.00 Gain



Milwaukee Numismatic Society's

Fantasy Numismatics 2017

Results

By: Bruce Benoit

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Change in Portfolio</u>
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1 st	Jim Heinrich	+ \$6,250.00 WINNER Again
2 nd	Leon Saryan	+ \$3,750.00
3 rd	Josh Whitehall	+ \$2,430.00
4 th	Gary Bieringer	+ \$2,125.00
5 th	Dave Hunsicker	+ \$1,700.00
6 th	Tom Dallmann	+ \$835.00
7 th	Bruce Benoit	+ \$500.00
8 th	Justin Perrault	+ \$300.00

9 th	John Bleidorn	even
10 th	Ed Fyrnys	- \$50.00
11 th	Tom Casper	- \$5,000.00

All positive portfolio's added up to +\$17,890.00

All negative portfolio's added up to -\$5,050.00

Giving us as a group a net profit of **\$12,840.00**

Thank you all for your participation again this year. It would be better if we had more participation in 2018.

Congratulations to the top of our leader board with positive portfolios, especially our BIG WINNER: Jim Heinrich!

Now Jim has bragging rights again till next year, and he also has even more justification to show his wife for all of next year's coin purchases. Good Luck with that Jim...!

Don't forget to complete your 2018 Fantasy Numismatics Portfolio for next year!



Milwaukee Numismatic Society's

Fantasy Numismatics 2018

(By Bruce Benoit)

The concept:

Did you ever want to make a substantial coin purchase for investment purposes, but the only thing stopping you was your available funds to invest? This fun and educational program will enable you to spend up to \$25,000.00 in fantasy dollars on coins, and after a year's time you will find out how you did with the selections you made in your coin investment portfolio. Participants will select coins that they feel will increase in price better than others. This is a fun way to learn how you would do if you had the guts and funds to actually do it, and the challenge of competing against your numismatic buddies.

Rules:

1. All portfolio selections must be only **regular issue coins** produced by the U.S. Mint, and be listed in the January 2018 issue of Coin's magazine. (NO COMMEMS, SETS or BULLION)
2. You **can** select up to ten (10) coins, in any listed grade you would like.
3. You **cannot** exceed the \$25,000.00 limit.
4. You **cannot** change your portfolio during the year's time.
5. Portfolios will be added up using the January 2019 issue of Coin's magazine.

To participate, use the January 2018 issue of Coin's magazine price list and portfolio form to select the coins you would like to invest in. Be sure to turn in your portfolio prior to the **deadline of 9:00 P.M.** (end of the March meeting) **2018**. Portfolios can be given to Leon Saryan to forward to me. You can track your portfolio results with each issue by subscribing to Coin's magazine. Prizes will be awarded to the top performers at the years end, and they will have bragging rights all year!

Coin Investment Portfolio

Name _____

Be sure to include the date, denomination, grade, and cost of each coin.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total Cost \$ _____